

A new species of *Terminalia* (*Combretaceae*) from Madagascar

G. McPHERSON

Summary : *Terminalia cephalota* McPherson, *sp. nov.*, is described and compared with the Madagascan species most similar to it.

Résumé : *Terminalia cephalota* McPherson, *sp. nov.*, est décrit et comparé aux espèces malgaches qui lui sont affines.

Gordon McPherson, Herbarium, Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, Missouri 63166, U.S.A.

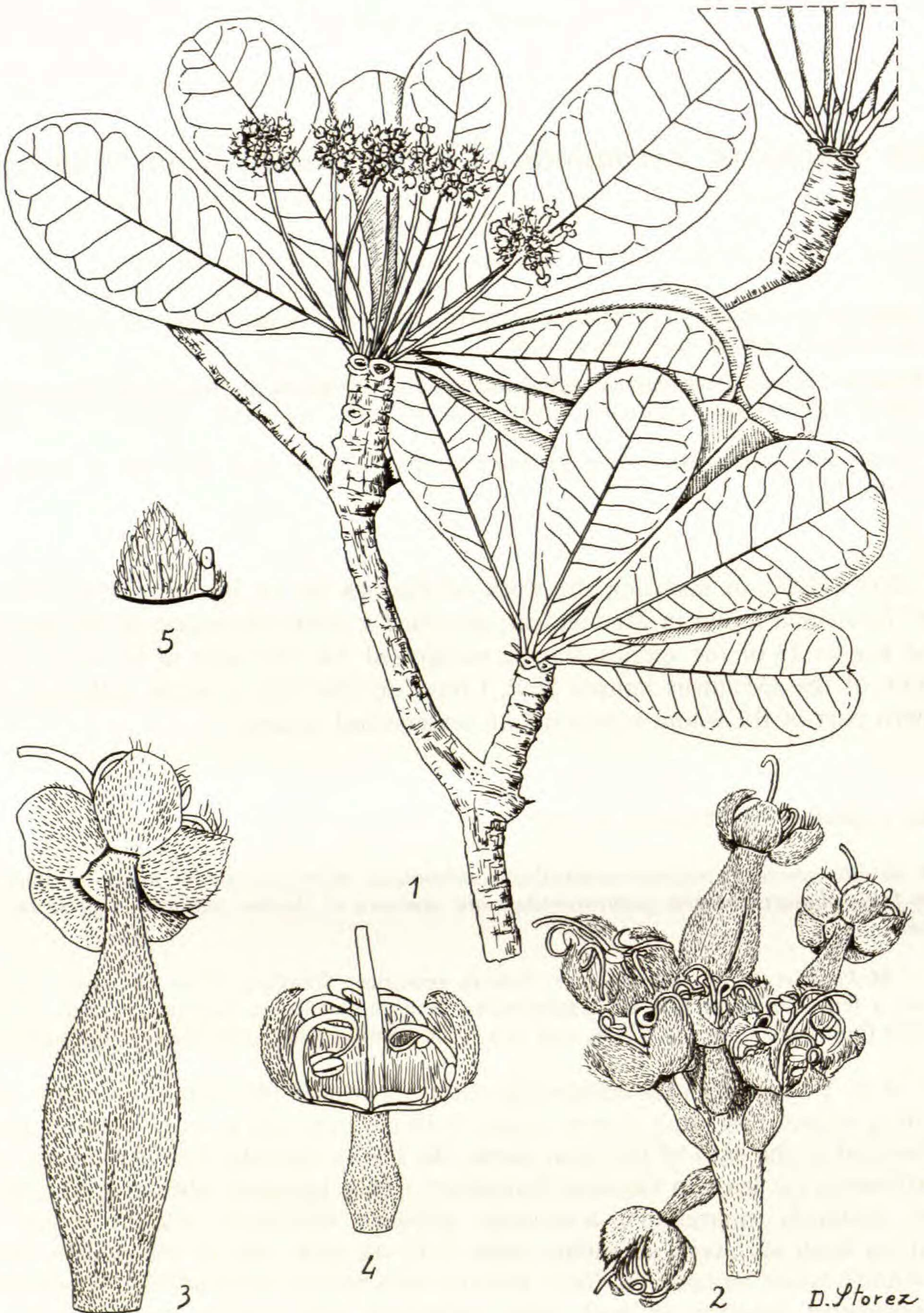
CAPURON (1973), in updating the work of PERRIER DE LA BÂTHIE (1953, 1954) on the species of *Terminalia* found in Madagascar, provided a useful discussion of the genus as well as a good key to 35 of the species that he recognized. On the basis of his study and of an examination of the specimens housed at P, I have decided that a recent collection from the southeastern part of the island represents an undescribed species.

Terminalia cephalota* McPherson, *sp. nov.

Arbor ab aliis speciebus madagascariensibus combinatione inflorescentiarum subcapitatarum multiflorarum cum foliis obovatis integris glabrescentibus sine domatiis et floribus uniformiter perfectis sessilibus distinguenda.

TYPE : *McPherson 14268*, Madagascar, Toliara province, Tôlañaro (Fort Dauphin) region, forêt d'Analalava, a few kilometres NW of Manantenina, forest remnant on laterite, ca. 40 m elevation, 28 October 1989 (holo-, MO ; iso- P, TAN, and two to be distributed).

Tree 14 m. Young branches comprising relatively slender (4-6 mm in diameter), elongate stems bearing stouter (7-9 mm), shorter stems, both covered with a rough, whitish grey bark. Leaves clustered at the ends of the stout stems, the blades obovate, 3.5-7.5 cm long, 1.8-4 cm wide, chartaceous (at least in October-November) ; base narrowly obtuse or cuneate ; apex obtuse or shallowly emarginate, sometimes minutely apiculate ; margin entire ; midrib prominent on both surfaces ; secondary veins 9-12 on each side of the midrib, somewhat obscure, slightly raised on upper surface ; tertiary veins almost indiscernible ; domatia absent ; surfaces somewhat lustrous on both sides, pubescent with reddish hairs in bud, but on expansion quickly becoming glabrous or nearly so, a few hairs sometimes remaining along the midrib abaxially ; petioles 4-5 mm long, up to 1.5 mm wide, at first pubescent abaxially, soon glabrous.



D. Ptoez

Fig. 1. — *Terminalia cephalota* McPherson : 1, flowering branch $\times 3/4$; 2, portion of an inflorescence $\times 4.5$; 3, flower $\times 9$; 4, longitudinal section of flower $\times 7$; 5, adaxial surface of sepal with part of a filament $\times 7$. (McPherson 14268).

Inflorescences in groups of 3-8 at ends of stout, short stems, 3-5 cm long; peduncles 2.5-3.5 cm long, pubescent with whitish, somewhat appressed hairs shorter than those of the young leaves; clusters of flowers roughly spherical, ca. 12 mm in diameter, white, comprising 25-35 flowers. Flowers all perfect, sessile. Bracts ca. 1 mm long, pubescent, soon caducous. Calyx 5-parted, the sepals 2 mm long, markedly concave, fused about half their length (the lobes acute, valvate in bud), pubescent abaxially with short, whitish hairs and densely pubescent adaxially with much longer, whitish hairs. Corolla absent. Stamens 10, contorted in bud and on drying, 4-5 mm long, yellow, the anthers 0.5 mm long. Disc shallowly 5-lobed, densely long-pubescent. Ovary 2-2.5 mm long, pubescent with short, whitish hairs; style 3-4 mm long, often curved, yellow, the terminal stigmatic portion scarcely differentiated.

Young fruit slightly flattened, pubescent; mature fruit unknown (from the probable relationships of this species, the mature fruit can be predicted to be unwinged and terete). — Fig. 1.

Terminalia cephalota, because of its uniformly perfect flowers, its entire leaves, and its lack of leaf domatia, would seem to belong in what CAPURON called the Fatra group of the genus, and in fact keys out near *T. calophylla* Tulasne and *T. leandriana* Perrier of that group. From both of these species *T. cephalota* differs not only in its subcapitate inflorescences, but also in its more obtuse leaf apices, its larger number of secondary veins, its pubescence distribution, and its geography. *T. flavicans* Tulasne, a species that CAPURON considered too poorly understood to be included in the main body of his study, is known nevertheless to resemble the new species in having nearly glabrous leaves and subcapitate (if only 3-8-flowered) inflorescences. From it, however, *T. cephalota* differs in having much larger leaves, longer peduncles, many-flowered inflorescences, and a much more southerly occurrence (although at present the new species is known from but a single collection made in a remnant of the beleaguered eastern coastal forest).

LITERATURE CITED

- CAPURON, R., 1973 (publ. 1974). — Contribution à l'étude de la flore forestière de Madagascar. Notes sur le genre *Terminalia* L. *Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. (Paris)*, sér 3, n° 191, Botanique 11 : 89-180.
- PERRIER DE LA BÂTHIE, H., 1953. — Révision des Combrétacées de Madagascar et des Comores. *Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille*, sér. 7, 1 : 1-43.
- PERRIER DE LA BÂTHIE, H., 1954. — Combrétacées. In : H. HUMBERT, *Flore de Madagascar et des Comores*, fam. 151 : 1-84.